**README FILE**

**USDA HOMEMAKER STUDIES: COLLEGE WOMEN SAMPLE**

**1930 – 1931**

The earliest US time-use diary evidence in current use dates from 1965. The US Department of Agriculture, under the *Purnell Act,* coordinated a large *Homemaker* *Time Use Study* of Farm, Town and College women in the 1920s and early 1930s. At least 1500 Homemakers were surveyed across several states including California, Michigan, Montana and Oregon. The data were first re­ported in 1929 by the chief of the Economics Division of the USDA Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Hildegard Kneeland, and formed the basis for subsequent home economics studies during the 1930s.

The homemakers completed a detailed sequential record of their time-use for seven consecutive days, including a daily record of unpaid and paid domestic work, and help received from household members and others. A comprehensive ‘supplementary questionnaire’ provided information about household composition and characteristics, appliances and equipment, and the diarist’s most and least enjoyable activities. The original 58-activity coding frame included 31 activities relating to unpaid work, 18 to personal care and leisure, and nine to farm and other paid work.

Recently, survey materials from 566 ‘Farm’ and 75 ‘College’ homemakers were re-discovered in the US National Archives in Maryland. The only Farm women records recovered (to date) are researcher-produced ‘summary’ sheets of weekly aggregate times in various activities for each homemaker. However, each record included the homemaker’s (or her husband’s) given and family name, as well as home address. The ‘College’ women (alumni from the ‘Seven Sisters Colleges’ including Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke and Wellesley) materials include 75 original 7-day time-use diaries, supplementary questionnaires and researcher-produced summary sheets.

No direct evidence of the USDA’s general methods of sample selection, or of the sampling frame for the 566 rural homemakers in the surviving sample, has (as yet) come to light. On the basis of our supposition that the 566 summary records are drawn from the 808 reported by the USDA (1944), it is possible that 242 records are missing. The College women sample was drawn from alumnae of Seven Sisters colleges. Approximately 2,000 were invited to participate, although only 75 complete datasets survive.

Over 93 percent of the names and addresses of the 566 researcher-prepared rural household summary records have been matched to US Federal Census micro-data from 1920 to 1940. Variations in the spelling of family and given names and household relocations complicated the matching process, so additional sources were employed to resolve problems of identification (including birth, death, and marriage indexes; voting registers; social security numbers; city directories; military draft records; immigration and travel docu­ments; and other material, such as obituaries and newspaper articles). Over 95 percent Census matching for the College women sample has been achieved.

The USDA College women’s time-use diary data, coupled with the detailed supplementary questionnaire constitute the only evidence prior to the mass diffusion of electrical household equipment, appliances and broadcast media, and provide a unique opportunity to explore living conditions and various aspects of daily life in the early 1930s. This is the first time that the original College women’s diaries have been digitised and re-coded using the 2017 American Time Use Survey (ATUS) coding lexicon and the AHTUS coding frame. Findings on a range of daily activities, including paid and unpaid work, educational pursuits, volunteering and leisure will be presented and compared with more recent time-use data.

**MAIN FILE VARIABLES**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **USDA** | **Variable Label** | **Comments** |
| COUNTRY | US | Country of survey | Yes. |
| SURVEY | 1930 | Year survey began (survey id) | Yes. |
| SWAVE | 0 | Longitudinal study wave marker | No, this was a single survey. |
| MSAMP | 0 | Multiple samples in study | No. Individual US State surveys on rural women's time use were conducted. |
| HLDID | 0 | Household identifier | No, the dairy was kept by the 'homemaker' only. |
| PRSID | 70XX | Person/diarist identifier | Yes. N=75. |
| ID |  | Diary identifier | Yes: ID = 1 - 7. |
| DAY |  | Day of week diary kept | Yes. Sun=1: Mon=2: Tue=3: Wed=4: Thu=5: Fri=6: Sat=7. |
| CDAY |  | Calendar day diary kept | Yes. |
| MONTH |  | Month diary kept | Yes. Jan = 1: Feb=2: Mar=3: Apr=4: May=5: Jun=6: July=7. |
| YEAR |  | Year diary kept | 1930 - 1931 |
| DIARY |  | Diary order | Yes, over 7 consecutive days. Diary = 1 - 7. |
| NOWGHT | 1 | Marker of insufficient info. to make propwt |  |
| TIME |  | Duration of activity in minutes | Yes. Durations sum to 1440 mins for all 525 diary days. |
| CLOCKST |  | Start time on 24 hour clock | Original start time was 0.00, but re-set to 04.00. |
| START |  | Start minute (of 1440 min 0=begin of diary) | Start hour and minute. |
| END |  | End minute (of 1440 min 1440=end of diary) | End hour and minute. |
| EPNUM | -5 | Episode number | To be computed after the location and mode of travel data have been imputed. |
| MAIN | -5 | Main act, 69 category list | To follow. |
| CORE25 | -5 | Reduced core 25 activity codes | To follow. |
| SEC | -5 | Secondary act, 69 category list | To follow. |
| AV | -5 | Main act, old MTUS 41 category list | To follow. |
| INOUT | -5 | Inside or outside | To be imputed. |
| ELOC | -5 | Location | To be imputed. |
| ICT | -9 | Used internet or ict during activity | No internet or television during the survey period. Radio only. |
| MTRAV | -5 | Mode of transport | To be imputed. |
| ALONE | -5 | Time alone or with strangers | To be imputed. |
| CHILD | -5 | Child aged <18 present | To be imputed. |
| SPPART | -5 | Spouse or partner present | To be imputed. |
| OAD | -5 | Other adult present | To be imputed. |
| ANIMAL | -5 | With a pet, companion/service/domestic animal | To be imputed. |
| PARNTID1 | -9 | Person id 1st parent of diarist | Not a household survey. |
| PARNTID2 | -9 | Person id 2nd parent of diarist | Not a household survey. |
| PARTID | -9 | Person id of spouse or partner | Not a household survey. |
| HHTYPE |  | Household type | Yes. |
| HHLDSIZE |  | # people in household | Yes. |
| NCHILD |  | # child aged<18 in hhold | Yes. |
| AGEKIDX |  | Age youngest child in hhold (includes adult chn.) | Yes. |
| AGEKID2 |  | Actual age youngest child in hhold | Yes. |
| INCOME | -9 | Total hhold income grouped | Unavailable. |
| OWNHOME |  | Owns or rents home | Yes. |
| URBAN |  | Urban or rural hhold | Yes. |
| COMPUTER | 0 | Hhold has computer/internet access | No internet or television during the survey period. Radio only. |
| VEHICLE | -5 | Hhold access to a private vehicle | To be imputed from primary and secondary activities and location data. |
| SEX |  | Sex | All female=2. |
| AGE |  | Age | Yes, including date of birth. |
| FAMSTAT |  | Individual level family status | Yes. |
| SINGPAR |  | Diarist a single parent | Yes. |
| RELREFP | -9 | Relation to hhold ref person | Not applicable for this survey. |
| CIVSTAT |  | is diarist in a couple | Yes. |
| COHAB |  | diarist cohabiting | Yes. |
| CITIZEN |  | Diarist is citizen/national of country | Yes, all diarists were US citizens. |
| WHERBORN |  | Where was the diarist born | Yes. |
| EMPSTAT |  | Employment status | Yes. |
| EMP |  | In paid work | Yes. |
| UNEMP |  | Unemployed | Not asked, but can be imputed. |
| STUDENT |  | Student status | Not asked, but can be imputed. |
| RETIRED |  | Retirement status | Not asked. Many diarists not in paid work were raising chn/too young to retire. |
| EMPSP |  | Emp status spouse/partner | Yes, but not the number of hours worked. Jobtype available. |
| WORKHRS |  | Hours paid work last week incl. overtime | Yes. |
| ISCO1 |  | ISCO 2008 1-digit occupation | Yes. |
| SECTOR |  | Sector of employment | Yes, for some. Many diarists were teachers, but unclear whether public/private. |
| EDCAT |  | Harmonised highest level of education | Yes. All diarists completed at least 4 years of college education, some 5+ years. |
| RUSHED | -9 | Whether diarist usually feels rushed | Not asked. |
| HEALTH | -9 | Diarist's general health | Not asked, but diarists recorded the number days sick in the previous 12 months. |
| CARER | -9 | Diarist provides adult care | Not asked. |
| DISAB | -9 | Has disability/l-term hlth cond | Not asked. |
| OCOMBWT | 0 | Original weight | Cannot be computed, as full sample characteristics not available. |
| PROPWT | 0 | Proposed weight | Cannot be computed, as full sample characteristics not available. |

**SURVEY FILE VARIABLES**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COUNTRY | US | Country of survey | US |
| SURVEY | 1930 | Year survey began (survey id) | Carried out 1930 - 1931 |
| SWAVE | 0 | Longitudinal study wave marker | No, this was a single survey. |
| MSAMP | 0 | Multiple samples in study | No. Individual US State surveys on rural women's time use were conducted. |
| HLDIS | 70XX | Person/diarist identifier | Only homemaker completed the diary. |
| INCORIG | -9 | Original household income | Not asked. |
| REGION |  | Region | By US State |
| EMPINCLM | -9 | Original monthly labor income | Not asked. |
| OCCUPO |  | Original occupation variable | Yes. ISCO 2008 1-Digit Occupation. |
| EDUCA | 3 | Education-original study codes | All homemakers 4+ years college. |
| ETHNIC | -5 | Ethnicity | To follow. |
| MIGRANTD | US | Country where the diarist was born | All diarists were born in the US. |
| MIGRANTM | -5 | Country where the diarist’s mother was born | Data available via US Federal Census records. To follow. |
| MIGRANTF | -5 | Country where the diarist’s father was born | Data available via US Federal Census records. To follow. |

**ATUS-X ACTIVITY CODES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | General or other personal care |
| 2 | Imputed personal or household care |
| 3 | Sleep |
| 4 | Imputed sleep |
| 5 | Naps and rest |
| 6 | Wash, dress, personal care |
| 7 | Personal medical care |
| 8 | Meals at work |
| 9 | Other meals and snacks |
| 10 | Main paid work (not at home) |
| 11 | Paid work at home |
| 12 | Second job, other paid work |
| 13 | Work breaks |
| 14 | Other time at workplace |
| 15 | Time looking for work |
| 16 | Regular schooling, education |
| 17 | Homework |
| 18 | Short course or training |
| 19 | Occasional or other education/training |
| 20 | Food preparation, cooking |
| 21 | Set table, wash/put away dishes |
| 22 | Cleaning |
| 23 | Laundry, ironing, clothing repair |
| 24 | Home repairs, maintain vehicle |
| 25 | Other domestic work |
| 26 | Purchase routine goods |
| 27 | Purchase consumer durables |
| 28 | Purchase personal services |
| 29 | Purchase medical services |
| 30 | Purchase repair, laundry services |
| 31 | Financial/government services |
| 32 | Purchase other services |
| 33 | Care of infants |
| 34 | General care of older children |
| 35 | Medical care of children |
| 36 | Play with children |
| 37 | Supervise child or help with homework |
| 38 | Read to, talk with child |
| 39 | Other child care |
| 40 | Adult care |
| 41 | General voluntary acts |
| 42 | Political and civic activity |
| 43 | Union and professional activities |
| 44 | Volunteer child/family organization |
| 45 | Volunteer fraternal organization |
| 46 | Other formal volunteering |
| 47 | ? |
| 48 | Acts for religious organization |
| 49 | Worship and religious acts |
| 50 | General out-of-home leisure |
| 51 | Attend sporting event |
| 52 | Go to cinema |
| 53 | Theater, concert, opera |
| 54 | Museums, exhibitions |
| 55 | Attend other public event |
| 56 | Restaurant, cafe bar |
| 57 | Parties or receptions |
| 58 | Imputed time away from home |
| 59 | ? |
| 60 | Sports and exercise |
| 61 | ? |
| 62 | Walking |
| 63 | Cycling |
| 64 | Outdoor recreation |
| 65 | Physical activity, sports with child |
| 66 | Hunting, fishing, boating, hiking |
| 67 | Gardening |
| 68 | Pet care, walk dogs |
| 69 | ? |
| 70 | General indoor leisure |
| 71 | Imputed in-home social |
| 72 | Receive or visit friends |
| 73 | Other in-home social, games |
| 74 | Play musical instrument, sing, act |
| 75 | Artistic activity |
| 76 | Crafts |
| 77 | Hobbies |
| 78 | Relax, think, do nothing |
| 79 | ? |
| 80 | ? |
| 81 | Read books |
| 82 | Read periodicals |
| 83 | Read newspapers |
| 84 | Listen to music (cd etc.) |
| 85 | Listen to radio |
| 86 | Watch television, video |
| 87 | Writing by hand |
| 88 | Conversation, phone, texting |
| 89 | Use computer |
| 90 | Imputed travel |
| 91 | Personal or adult care travel |
| 92 | Travel as part of paid work |
| 93 | Travel to/from work + other work travel |
| 94 | Travel related to education |
| 95 | Travel related to consumption |
| 96 | Travel related to child care |
| 97 | Travel for volunteering or worship |
| 98 | Other travel |
| -8 | Item missing |